

Present: Cllrs Bright, Waldron, Lane, Lawson, Hodge, Turner, Spivey and Reygate.

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman, Cllr Bright, took the meeting.

In attendance: The Clerk, D/Cllr Deed, C/Cllr Squires (later part of the meeting).

Standing Orders suspended

Open Session: D/Cllr Deed introduced the Mayor of Crediton, District Cllr Frank Letch, who will be standing for C/Cllr at the May Elections. One member of the public was present and spoke to the Parish Council (PC) regarding communication and engagement. He suggested that parishioners do not see the PC as 'user friendly', that the PC is not reaching the right people at the right time, and is reactive and not proactive in its business. He asked that an electronic noticeboard be considered, together with a public media policy, and that the PC website be reviewed for which he volunteered his services. Cllr Turner enquired as to how many parishioners had mentioned these issues but no figure was given in reply.

Reports:

- i) D/Cllr Deed updated the PC on the S106 Agreement, in connection with the Court Barton Close affordable homes, and confirmed that MDDC Planning were responsible for the error in not including priority for people with local ties within this document. MDDC, Westhaven Homes, and Devon Home Choice were now all working together to ensure that this requirement is met and an advert published this week – for the first 4 affordable homes – confirmed priority for people with local ties. D/Cllr Deed will continue to fight for the S106 Agreement to be amended. The Chairman asked for a copy of the amendment in writing and D/Cllr Deed replied in that MDDC would be responsible for any amendment and associated costs and that as all three parties had now entered into the spirit of the amendment it would probably not be produced in writing. Cllr Lawson called for the amendment in writing, for the longevity of the project, and it was agreed that the PC should write to MDDC Planning to request this (Cllrs Bright and Lawson). D/Cllr Deed reported that he was dealing with the street lighting query at Broadlands as received from a resident – see 16/352 ix below.
- ii) C/Cllr Squires – no report.
- iii) PCSO Roberts – a report was read out advising of 3 calls to the Police and no crimes in March.

Standing Orders resumed

16/346 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Crang - work commitments, Cllr Sims – holiday, and PCSO Roberts – non working day.

16/347 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Turner declared a disclosable pecuniary interest regarding 17/00585/CAT, see item 16/351 c below, due to this relating to his property. Cllr Lane declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 16/359 below due to his wife being a Post Office employee.

16/348 Dispensation requests: none

16/349 Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 14th March 2017 – it was proposed by Cllr Spivey, seconded by Cllr Hodge and RESOLVED, that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting.

16/350 Social Media: The Chairman took this opportunity to remind all present that no individual Cllr can respond to notices on Social Media, such as the local Next Door or Facebook, on behalf of the PC but can do so as an individual. Both sites have now been updated so that users are aware to contact the Clerk to communicate with the PC.

16/351 Planning Applications received to the date of the meeting and circulated:

- a) 17/00223/HOUSE Installation of a replacement package treatment plant at Dunsaller, Thorverton – the PC RESOLVED to make no comment on this proposal (Cllrs Bright and Spivey).

- b) 17/00467/HOUSE (and LBC) Conversion of barn to annex at Court Barton, Silver Street, Thorverton – after discussion the PC RESOLVED to comment as follows: ‘TPC have no objection to this application but would request that consideration be given to the possibility of barn owls using the barn and, if this is the case, that they be protected’ (Cllrs Spivey and Lawson).
- c) 17/00585/CAT Cllr Turner declared a disclosable pecuniary interest this being his residence. Notice of intention to fell 1 Fir tree, 1 Apple tree, 2 other trees within a Conservation Area at 3, Dinneford Street, Thorverton – the PC made no comment regarding this proposal (Cllrs Spivey and Lawson).

Planning decisions received to the date of the meeting to note:

- d) 13/01228/FULL/NMA/grant - Variation of condition (2) of planning permission 13/00401/FULL (revised plans) amendment to omit chimney, install flue, replace slates, omit PV tiles, alter car port. Chard Cottage, Jericho Street, Thorverton. Granted.
- e) 17/00196/PNCOU Prior notification of change of use of agricultural building to dwelling at Higher Trey Mill, Thorverton. Granted.
- f) 17/0079/DPO Discharge of S106 Agreement at Poole Farm, Thorverton. Granted.

16/352 Communications received to the date of the meeting and circulated:

- i) DALC free Social Media training for Council members on May 23rd at DALC 10am – 12.30pm. Noted.
- ii) Road closure at The Bury 24th – 26th May 2017. Noted.
- iii) Road closure at Ruffwell Cross to Stumpy Cross 11th – 15th April 2017. Noted.
- iv) Footpaths 10 and 11 – Cllr Spivey reported that both Footpaths have been ploughed and now need re-walking. He is to discuss a style, to replace the existing gate, with the land owner. Noted.
- v) Devon Home Choice Advert showing priority to people with local ties – as discussed by D/Cllr Deed.
- vi) Fence between 5 The Glebe and the PC owned School field – e-mail from a resident regarding the state of the fence – after a review of documentation it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the School to 1) request the Annual Report due in January this year and 2) to ask for the fence to be repaired in accordance with the Agreement between the School and PC (Cllrs Waldron and Hodge). Cllr Spivey reported that the repair appeared to involve 15 – 20 feet of fencing at the extreme northern end of the boundary.
- vii) Charter between MDDC and Local Councils in Mid Devon – comments by 4th May 2017 – the PC RESOLVED to make no comment (Cllrs Bright and Waldron).
- viii) Grass cutting in Bullens Close – e-mail from a resident – the Clerk had obtained the MDDC and DCC grass cutting schedules which would be publicised. It was confirmed that grass cutting at Bullens Close is the responsibility of MDDC and that the first cut was due the week of 16th April.
- ix) Street lighting at Broadlands – e-mail from a resident – D/Cllr Deed had already advised the PC that he had taken on this matter.
- x) Parliament week 13 – 19 November. Noted.
- xi) Register of Interests – all Councillors were reminded by MDDC of their individual responsibility to update their RoI forms when necessary and to ensure that they were accurate.

C/Cllr Squires joined the meeting at this stage.

16/353 Handyman/Road Warden –

- i) The Handyman’s report was reviewed and it was RESOLVED that payments of £135.00 for hours worked and £54.00 for expenses be paid (Cllrs Turner and Hodge). After discussion the Clerk was asked to advertise the Handyman’s role and work in Focus, to raise awareness, and it was agreed to put on the next meeting agenda whether to widen awareness through local Social Media where suggestions from the public could be invited. The Clerk would report back to the PC on how toxic to children and animals the Roundup spray is and whether warning signs should be considered. Duties for the next month were RESOLVED as a) strimming around the play and gym equipment at the Rec b) trim the grass verges on

both sides of road at the Court Barton Close site c) strim the verge along the stream outside the Memorial Hall d) cut/strim the grass at the junction of The Glebe and opposite around the bus shelter near the Broadlands junction e) strim the grass around the Sheep Dip f) clean up the pavement outside of the Church in time for Church week g) clear the debris Cllr Lawson had taken from the stream at Jubilee Green. It was agreed that a 'village tidy up' should appear on the next meeting agenda. (Cllrs Turner and Waldron). The Clerk would ask Cllr Crang whether he could clear the remaining debris in the Quarry Car Park.

- ii) Storage container: a resident had offered the PC a lock up store for Handyman tools and equipment at a cost in the region of £5 per week. After discussion it was RESOLVED that this offer be taken up (Cllrs Waldron and Spivey) the Clerk would set up an Agreement.
- iii) Handyman position: further to last month's meeting it was RESOLVED that the wording of the Handyman's position should remain as 'permanent' (Cllrs Waldron and Spivey).
- iv) Community Road Warden Agreement: The Chairman explained that the query over the insurance now appeared to have been sorted out and so proposed that the Agreement be signed which would sanction pot hole filling and working on the highway. Seconded Cllr Hodge and RESOLVED.

It was agreed by the PC that the Highways items could be brought forward to this point.

16/354 Highways -

- Hulk Lane – following an enquiry from Cllr Sims last month it was confirmed that vehicular access along the Lane would be limited to landowners who had been supplied by DCC with codes for the barriers. The TABSCAP Constitution was reviewed further and considered to be in order. The TABSCAP Contractors Insurance had been renewed and was now in date – a new schedule had been received. DCC had confirmed by e-mail that it has no concerns regarding the Hulk Lane work not going out to tender.
- School Lane – Cllr Lane agreed to obtain confirmation from the School that the verge work could go ahead.
- 30mph signage and Jericho Street signage – Steve Tucker, Highways, had confirmed that both these matters had now progressed and would be considered for inclusion into the Traffic Order at the next relevant meeting on 26th June this year. Item will reappear on the July meeting agenda.
- Wall in Dark Lane – 2 quotes for Engineers Reports had now been received and were explained in detail by Cllr Lawson. It was suggested that the Community Enhancement Fund may be available towards Engineers services. The Chairman confirmed that ownership of the wall was still inconclusive. Cllr Hodge enquired as to the pipe feeding the leat which could be under Dark Lane and contributing to the wall moving. It was suggested that tell tales attached to the wall could prove whether it was moving or not and Cllrs Lawson and Bright volunteered to put these in place and report back to Council next month when further consideration would take place.

16/355 Recreation Ground – Council heard that the ride on mower (tractor) insurance was due for renewal on 5th May and that last year it cost £280. The Clerk was asked to obtain 3 quotes (NFU, Aviva and another) and was given delegated authority to accept the cheapest quote (Cllrs Waldron and Turner). Cllr Waldron volunteered to help with the quotes. The tractor service had been completed, at a cost of £522.25 (£435 net), but the invoice had been received after the issue of the meeting agenda and so would be presented for payment next month.

16/356 Financial matters -

- 1) It was RESOLVED to agree the accounts and bank reconciliation to the year-end being 31/03/2017 (Cllrs Spivey and Lawson)
- 2) It was RESOLVED to agree Section 1 of the Annual Audit Return (Cllrs Spivey and Lawson)
- 3) It was RESOLVED to agree Section 2 of the Annual Audit Return (Cllrs Spivey and Lawson)
- 4) It was RESOLVED to agree the Clerks annual pay-rise to £10.739 per hour with effect from 01/04/2017 (Cllrs Turner and Waldron)

5) It was RESOLVED to agree to the payments listed in the schedule below (Cllrs Turner and Hodge)

April 2017	Clerk - salary (net of tax)	(no pay-rise included)	£256.12
	Clerk – HMRC		£ 59.52
	Handyman – salary (net of tax)		£135.00
	Handyman - HMRC		£ 33.75
	Handyman - expenses		£ 54.00 (VAT incl)

- It was noted that the bank balance, as at 31/03/2017, was £40,224.35 (ring-fenced funding: £30,000 new Cemetery, £1,515 defibrillator maintenance, up to £4,000 Grant Funding for Hulk Lane. New - £2,000 replacement fund for Rec play/gym equipment)
- It was noted that the first Precept payment of £9,758.62 had been received
- It was noted that TAP funding of £1,430.25 had been agreed and that receipt was pending
- It was noted that a Wayleave payment of £40.53 had been received.

16/357 Parish Priorities – it had been agreed earlier in the meeting that the matter of a ‘village clean-up’ would appear on the next meeting agenda which the Clerk would put under this heading.

16/358 School Agreement – the annual report from the School was due in January and had been chased.

16/359 Thorverton Post Office – Cllr Lane declared a disclosable pecuniary interest. The Chairman confirmed that the Post Office had accepted and signed the PC’s Agreement granting permission for it to remain in the Quarry Car Park for the next 5 years, at no cost, after which a further review would take place. Cllr Bright, as Chairman, signed the Agreement on behalf of the PC.

16/360 Development –

- New Cemetery – the Annual Parish Meeting house to house flyer was presented to Council for consideration and it was RESOLVED that this be accepted without amendment (Cllrs Turner and Lawson). The flyers would be printed next week and distributed to Councillors for delivery to all parish households to encourage attendance at the meeting and comments/feedback regarding the proposed new Cemetery.
- Court Barton – D/Cllr Deed had updated the PC on the S106 matter earlier in the meeting. An update from the Developers, Westhaven Homes, was read out by the Chairman and would be publicised on the PC website, notice board and in Focus. Cllr Bright proposed that the Clerk write to MDDC Planning to obtain confirmation, in writing, that MDDC accepted responsibility for the said S106 error and that an amendment was being prepared to correct the position as per the pre requisite of the planning policy to which planning was granted. A date, by which the amendment would be available in writing, would also be requested. Seconded by Cllr Reygate and RESOLVED. Cllr Lawson would support the Clerk with the letter.
- Quarry Car Park – West Bank Lease – the Chairman explained that part of the west bank was leased to residents and that a copy of the lease was currently being sought from the PC’s Solicitors for review. It was noted that the bank had been cleared and planted. It was agreed to review the matter of replacing the recently removed fence on receipt of the lease.

16/361 Representative reports –

TMGT Cllr Spivey reported that the purchase of the new land is proceeding and that the TMGT AGM would take place on 26th April, at the Exeter Inn, and all were welcome to attend. Focus Cllr Turner reported that from June this year Focus will be printed out of house for a better quality of print. Memorial Hall Cllr Hodge reported that the Fun Day will happen in July, that two Bingo events had just taken place and that wedding bookings were increasing. Raddon Group – no meeting. School - Cllr Turner had attended Veda’s retirement event on behalf of the PC.

16/362 Community Safety Partnership Conference – Cllr Bright had attended the event which had given focus to modern slavery and the cutting of PCSO numbers amongst other topics. He had obtained leaflets for use by the PC at the Saturday Markets and advised that the Fire Service could visit homes, for free, to complete fire checks and to Install smoke alarms if requested. Cllr Lane would report this in Focus. It was noted that padlock alarms could be purchased from the local PCSO for approximately £7 each.

16/363 Monthly Market – Cllr Lane reported that the bird box making went well and that he would pass on a residents name to PCSO Roberts regarding Speedwatch. Cllr Spivey volunteered to attend the May market on behalf of the PC.

16/364 Business at the Chairman's discretion –

- 1) TADS had now returned the laptop and had thanked the PC for its loan
- 2) Colin was in the process of completing Handyman duties for Newton St Cyres PC for which £5 per hour would go to TPC funds for replacement tools and equipment as previously resolved. More data next month
- 3) Di Foxford has taken over the Defibrillator checks from the Clerk with effect from this week
- 4) Barbara Uglow had gifted various document on the water course to the PC – given to Cllr Spivey for review
- 5) Cllr Turner reported that comments had appeared on local Social Media regarding the rise in the Precept and suggested that PC expenditure be noted in Focus so as to advise the public as to what the PC was spending. It was agreed that this matter would appear on the next agenda.

16/365 The Annual Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday May 9th 2017 at 7.30pm in the Thorverton Memorial Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday May 3rd 2017 at 7.30pm in the Thorverton Memorial Hall. All are welcome to attend both meetings.

The meeting closed at 9.54 pm.